MARVEL COMICS
ELEKTRA
MAY '97 7
ELEKTRA
THEY ALL FALL DOWN!
MIKE DEODATO JR.
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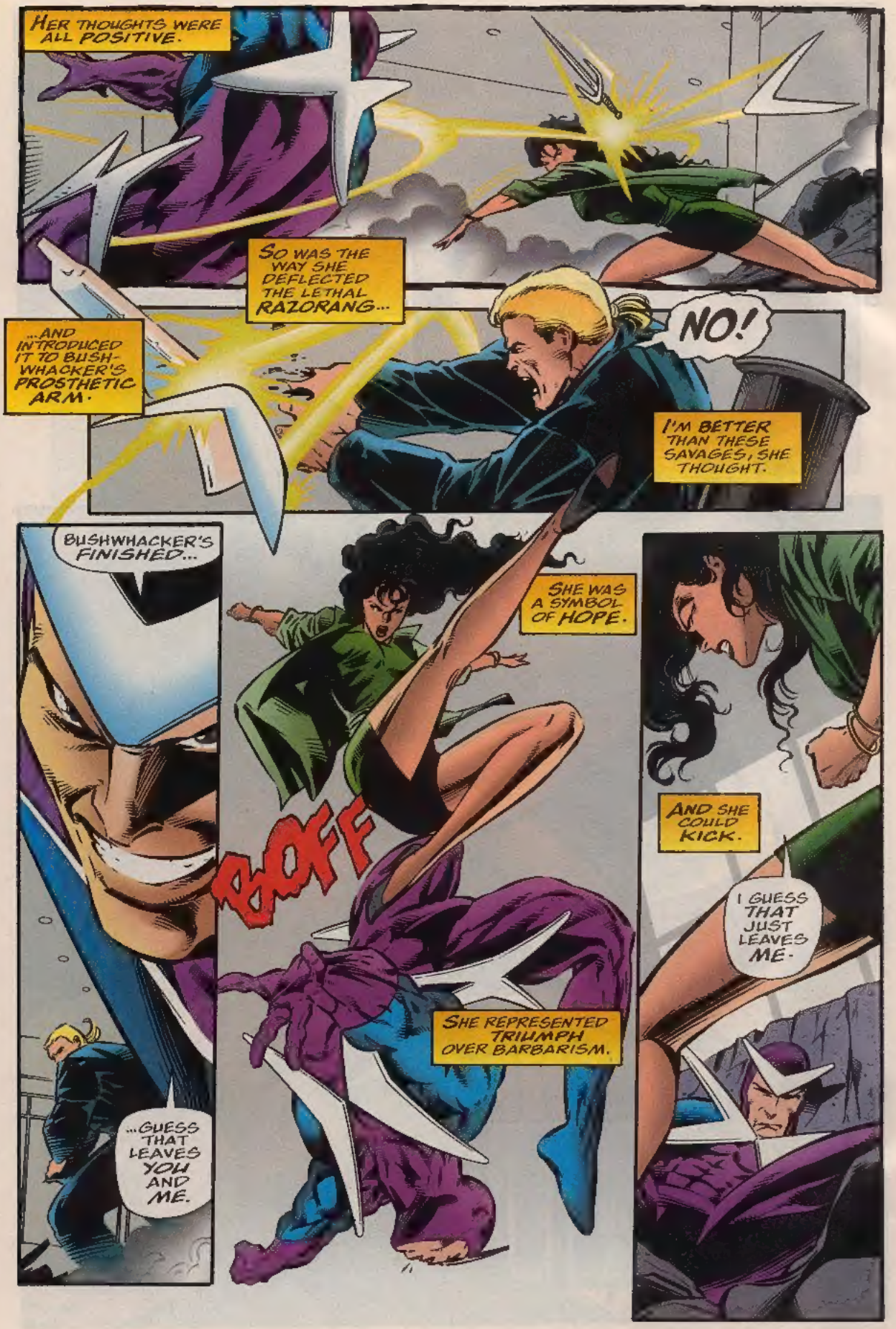
IT HAD STARTED WELL.
OKAY, THE CITY WAS CRAWLING WITH SUPER-PSYCHOS.
AN ANCIENT BEING CALLED THE ARCHITECT WAS OFFERING BIG MONEY TO THE FIRST ASSASSIN TO DO A JOB FOR HIM...
...TO KILL HIM.
AND IT WAS HER JOB TO STOP THEM ALL. NOTHING SHE COULDN'T HANDLE.
MY. THIS JUST BLEW STRAIGHT INTO MY HAND.
AN INVITATION TO A SHOW... CALLED DEATH AND ARCHI-TECTURE.
VERY FUNNY.
IT WAS SOME OPENING, DOWN IN THE VILLAGE.
BOOMERANG.
BUSHWHACKER.
AND SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED DYING VILLAINS.

THIS IS MY JOB, BUSH-WHACKER! LEAVE NOW AND YOU WON'T GET HURT.
YOU LEAVE... OR I'LL THROW YOU SO HARD YOU'LL NEVER COME BACK!
THEN THEY HEARD IT--
THAT NOISE!
SOME KINDA... WILD ANIMAL!
AND THEN SHE STARTED ENJOYING HERSELF AGAIN.
WHAT
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
OUT OF THE NIGHT


HER THOUGHTS WERE ALL POSITIVE.
SO WAS THE WAY SHE DEFLECTED THE LETHAL RAZORANG...
...AND INTRODUCED IT TO BUSH-WHACKER'S PROSTHETIC ARM.
NO!
I'M BETTER THAN THESE SAVAGES, SHE THOUGHT.
BUSHWHACKER'S FINISHED...
SHE WAS A SYMBOL OF HOPE.
BOFF
AND SHE COULD KICK.
I GUESS THAT JUST LEAVES ME.
SHE REPRESENTED TRIUMPH OVER BARBARISM.
...GUESS THAT LEAVES YOU AND ME.

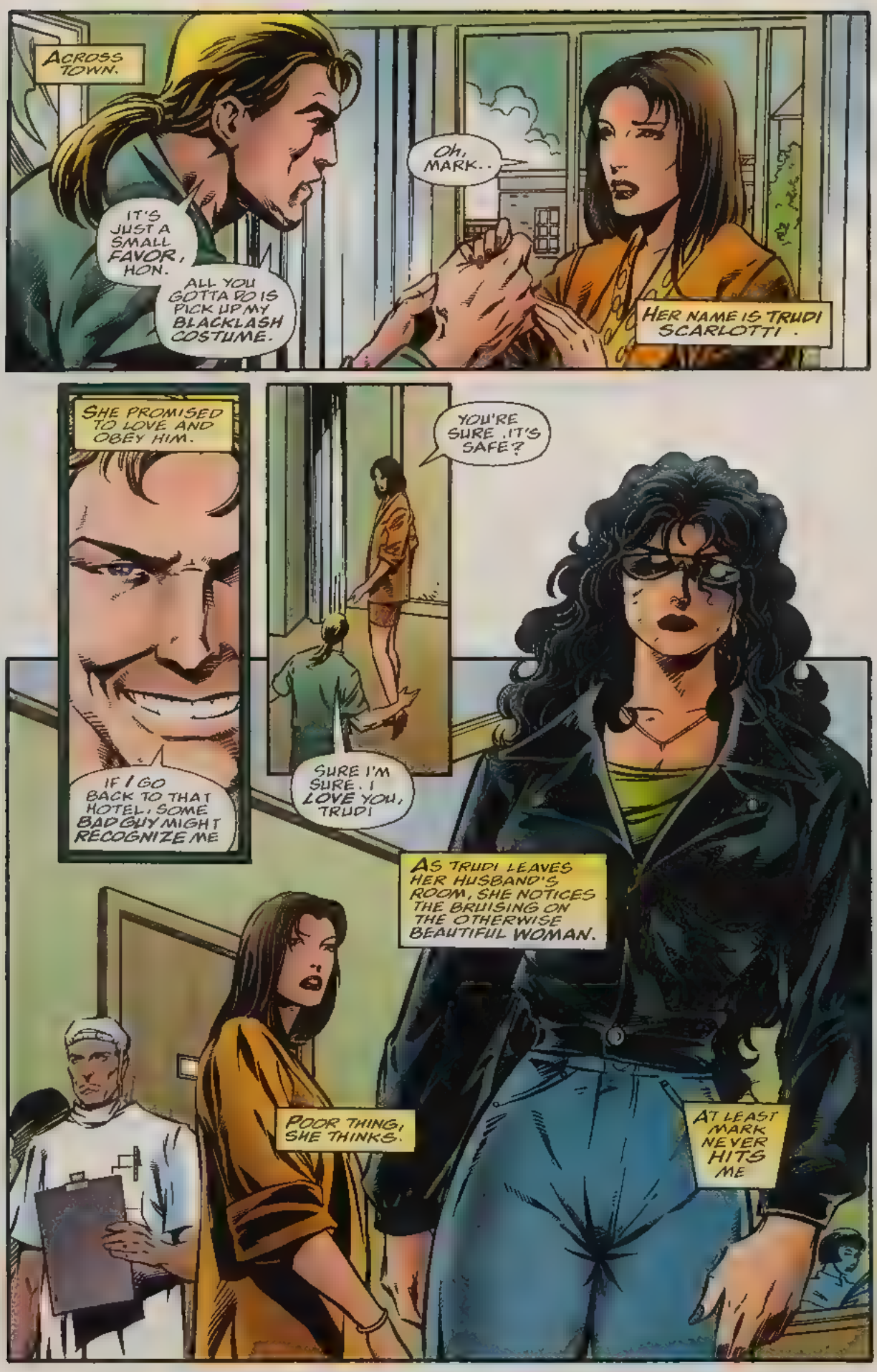
THEN THERE WAS THE TASK-MASTER.
ALSO LURED HERE BY THE PROMISE OF A MEGA PAYDAY.
HE COPIED HER FIGHTING TECHNIQUE...
HE COULDN'T KEEP UP.
..SHE JUST FOUGHT FASTER.
THE CRY OF PAIN AS THE SAI CUT INTO HIM WAS ALL HIS OWN.
THEN HE TRIED FIGHTING LIKE SPIDER-MAN.
WELL.
WAHH!
SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF GIRL TO BE SCARED OF A BUG.

I'LL FINISH HIM OFF QUICKLY, SHE THOUGHT.
OR MAYBE I WON'T.
THEN HE CHANGED AGAIN.
BUT SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
HIS EYES WERE CLOSED.
HE WAS FIGHTING LIKE A BLIND MAN...
...LIKE DAREDEVIL!
WKK
SHE KNEW IT WASN'T REALLY HER OLD LOVER MATT MURDOCK.
BUT IT THREW HER FOR A FATAL SECOND.
AND THE ODDLY-FAMILIAR BLOWS THAT RAINED DOWN ON HER WERE LIKE BITTER-SWEET MEMORIES...
...BRUISING FORGET-ME-NOTS...
...LOVE LETTERS STRAIGHT FROM THE FIST.

WOW, DID THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR GET TO YOU!
HE WOULD'VE KILLED HER THERE AND THEN...
...BUT MACHETE SHOWED UP...
...AND SHE CRAWLED OUT OF THERE...
...AND SAW THE LAST PERSON SHE WANTED TO SEE...
STICK...
A VERY MOVING PERFOR-MANCE...
DON'T SAY... ANY-THING.
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD HAVE IT ALL FOR ONCE... BE A NORMAL YOUNG WOMAN FOR A CHANGE... AND FIGHT MONSTERS LIKE THAT.
AND ALL IT TOOK TO BRING DOWN THE WALLS OF ELEKTRA ...WAS A DEVIANT WHO DID A PASSABLE IMPERSONATION OF MATT MURDOCK.
BUT IT FELT GOOD, STICK. TELLING MYSELF I WAS OVER MATT.
TELLING MYSELF I COULD BE A NORMAL PERSON.

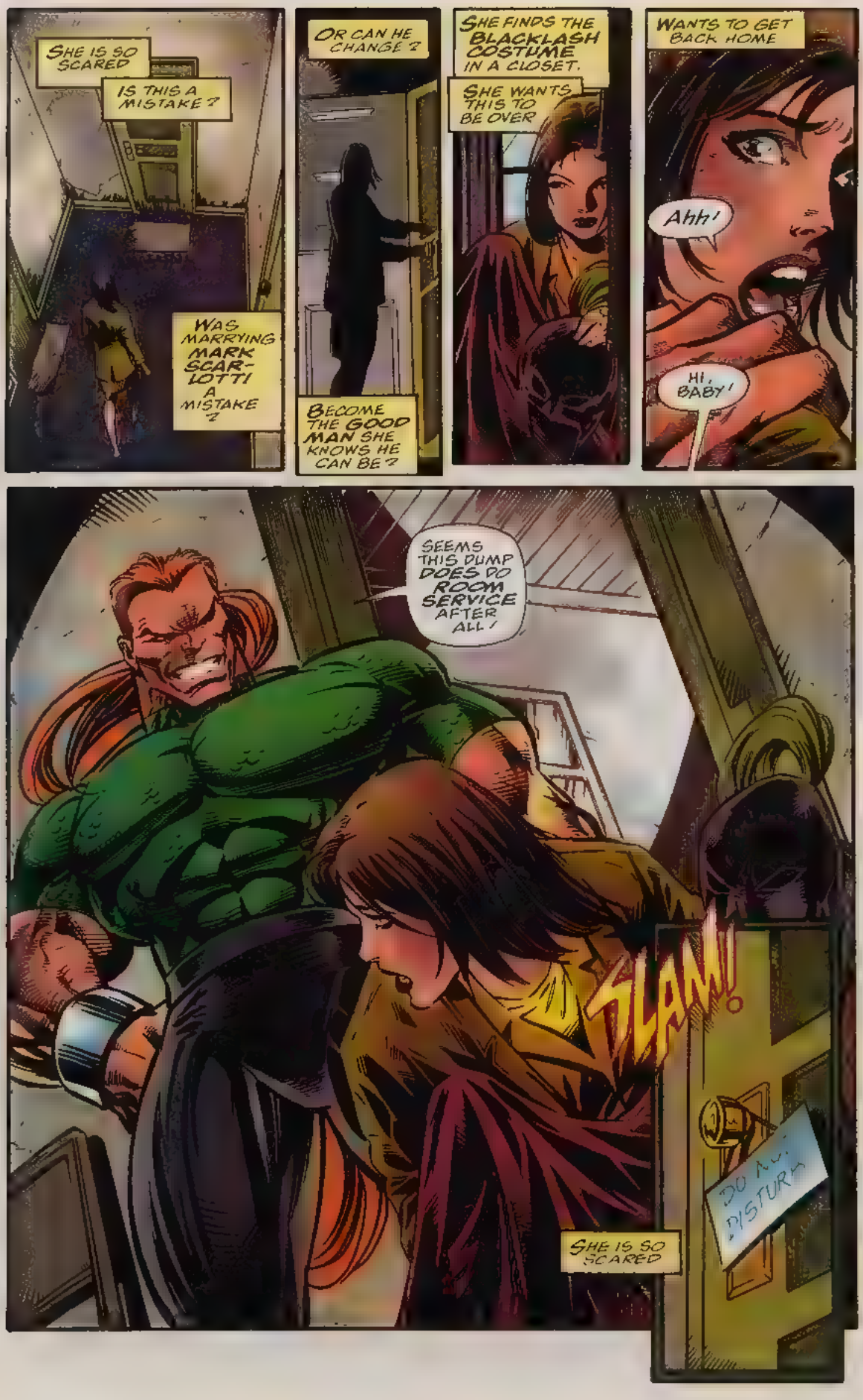
SHE'S HAD A BAD NIGHT...
BUT YOU AREN'T A NORMAL PERSON, YOU ARE--
ELEKTRA?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I CUT MYSELF SHAVING.
HOW CAN YOU JOKE? YOU'RE A MESS!
WHAT--
LISTEN, NINA. THIS'S MY LIFE. THIS IS IT.
LATE NIGHT BLEEDING. CUTS. CONTUSIONS. TORN LIGAMENTS. SUTURES. BANDAGES. SCAR TISSUE.
IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT, GO TO YOUR GRAND-PARENTS.
HEY, I WAS RAISED ON A FARM. THAT STUFF DOESN'T FREAK ME OUT.
NO?
IT SHOULD.

KONRAD WEISS' APARTMENT IS SMALL, BUT WITH A GREAT VIEW...
NOT UNLIKE KONRAD.
SHE'S A NATURAL, TOM. YEAH... ELEKTRA... I MEAN EPSILON, IS GREEK-AMERICAN.
THOUGH THERE'S PROBABLY A LITTLE GAZELLE IN THERE, TOO.
UH, LISTEN, MY FOOT FEELS A LITTLE... BOISTEROUS...
...I'LL CALL YOU BACK.
HIS CLUB FOOT.
THAT HE COULD NEVER QUITE SEE AS BYRONESQUE.
my God...
IT'S NORMAL!
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY FOOT?!
A TEMPORARY IMPROVEMENT, KONRAD. BUT IT CAN BE MADE PERMANENT.
THE BODY OF A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL...
...THE SOUL OF AN ANCIENT MONSTER.
ALL I WANT IS A SMALL FAVOR.
TO DO WITH ELEKTRA.


ACROSS TOWN.
IT'S JUST A SMALL FAVOR, HON.
ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS PICK UP MY BLACKLASH COSTUME.
OH, MARK..
HER NAME IS TRUDI SCARLOTTI.
SHE PROMISED TO LOVE AND OBEY HIM.
IF I GO BACK TO THAT HOTEL, SOME BADGUY MIGHT RECOGNIZE ME
YOU'RE SURE, IT'S SAFE?
SURE I'M SURE. I LOVE YOU, TRUDI
AS TRUDI LEAVES HER HUSBAND'S ROOM, SHE NOTICES THE BRUISING ON THE OTHERWISE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
POOR THING, SHE THINKS.
AT LEAST MARK NEVER HITS ME

ELEKTRA DOESN'T NOTICE TRUDI
NOR MARK SCARLOTTI, HIS NOSE IN THE SPORTS SECTION
ALL SHE SEES IS AN EMPTY BED.
WHERE A YOUNG MAN SHE TRIED TO HELP SHOULD BE
RAT DIDN'T MAKE IT. WE TURNED THE LIFE-SUPPORT OFF THIS MORNING, I'M AFRAID
SHE DOESN'T ANSWER
ARE YOU A RELATIVE?
YOU LOOK A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR YOURSELF, MISS YOU OKAY?
OKAY?
SURE I'M OKAY.
WHY SHOULDN'T I BE OKAY?
SAY, DOC, SHE LOOKS NEAR THE BREAKING POINT, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
I GUESS SHE DOES AT THAT

OUTSIDE, SHE TRIES TO USE THIS BAD FEELING
HEY!
.. MAKE IT GROW, HARD AS STONE, INSIDE HER
I'LL WALK THE REST OF THE WAY
SHE TAKES A CAB
YOU KIDDIN', LADY ? I DON'T EVEN LIKE DRIVING THROUGH THIS BARRIO
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK.
THEY WATCH HER
GOOD
BREATHE IT IN
MAKE IT YOURS.
THIS IS YOUR PLACE
YOU'RE JUST A TOURIST IN THE OTHER WORLD
HEY, SISTER FIRST, WE START WITH YOUR MONEY.
OH, DEAR HE'S GOT A KNIFE!
I AM SOOO SCARED!


SHE IS SO SCARED
IS THIS A MISTAKE?
WAS MARRYING MARK SCARLOTTI A MISTAKE?
OR CAN HE CHANGE?
BECOME THE GOOD MAN SHE KNOWS HE CAN BE?
SHE FINDS THE BLACKLASH COSTUME IN A CLOSET.
SHE WANTS THIS TO BE OVER
WANTS TO GET BACK HOME
Ahh!
HI, BABY!
SEEMS THIS DUMP DOES DO ROOM SERVICE AFTER ALL!
SLAM!
DO N... DISTURB
SHE IS SO SCARED

THE DOJO
HEY! IT'S HER!
MAC, I WANT A WORD
" IN PRIVATE
I VE MADE A DECISION I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. BUT I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TOO COMPLICATED.
BUT I M ONLY HUMAN
HU-? YOU MEAN, AH, YOU
STOP TALKING THE ANSWER IS YES MATT
YOU MEAN MAC.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

HE'S BEEN GOING OUT OF HIS MIND
TRUDI SHOULD HAVE BEEN BACK HOURS AGO
WHAT KIND OF SCUMBAG WAS HE, TO MAKE HER
TRUDI ?
TRUDI ARE YOU--?
THEN HE SEES HER
AT THAT MOMENT, THE PERSON HE ONCE WAS DIES FOREVER
THE SCREAMING LASTED TWENTY MINUTES.
BOY, THAT SHATTER-HEAD IS SOME GUY
LATER, HE'LL REMEMBER LITTLE OF THIS
JUST A THICK RED FOG OF SELF-LOATHING, PAIN, AND THE WORST KIND OF HORROR
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MAN CALLED BULLET WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MARK SCARLOTTI, aka BLACKLASH.
BUT THESE ARE NOT NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES
TRUDI! I'M SORRY, TRUDI! I'M SO, SO SORRY!!

THE FINAL BATTLE IS UNFOLDING
THE COPS PRETEND THERE'S A GAS LEAK.
ONCE AGAIN
... SHE LOWERS HERSELF INTO A DARK WORLD...
...WHERE DARK FORCES CLASH
FATALE, TELEPORTING IN AND OUT OF THE MELEE.
ZARAN, THE WEAPONS MASTER.
THE DEADLY TASK-MASTER.
OTHERS FIGHTING FOR THE SAME PRIZE.
LOOK, I'M THE HOMEGIRL HERE
THIS JOB'S TOO BIG FOR A WOMAN.
HUH? WHERE'D SHE--?
TRY LOOKIN' ME IN THE FACE AND SAYING THAT, YOU SEXIST ANACHRONISM!
BHAFF
KAKFF!

SNEAKY, LOUD-MOUTHED AMERICAN.
THAT'S ME
MEANWHILE
NOW-- ONLY FATALE AND ZARAN.
CORRECTION
--BY A LITTLE DARE-DEVIL!
UFHH!
EVEN BETTER WE BOTH KNOW HOW THROWN YOU ARE--
NOT THIS TIME.
HUH??
I'M OVER ALL THAT

THE TASK-MASTER PASSES OUT
JUST ANOTHER BEAT-UP SUPER VILLAIN.
EVEN THEN IT'S NOT OVER..
OW! HEAD LIKE IT'S...
SPLITTING? ACHING? SHATTER-ING?
SHATTER HEAD!
HE SENDS A TELEPATHIC CORKSCREW INTO HER CORPUS CALLOSUM.
BUT THIS TIME SHE DOESN'T FIGHT THE PAIN.
SHE BECOMES IT.
ACTUALLY, IT'S DELICIOUS.
SHE CHASES IT.
-PAI-
ARGH!
WHAT KIND OF FREAK ARE YOU? NO ONE ENJOYS-

IT'S BLACK LASH
SHE CAN SMELL THE DIFFERENCE IN HIM
HE SMELLS LIKE A STEAK LEFT OUT TO GO BAD.
VERTEBRAE ARE WHIPPED TO POWDER
SHATTERHEAD'S NERVOUS SYSTEM EXPLODES IN A PARALYZED DEATH AGONY
AND NOW SHE MUST FACE HIM
I WILL GET THE JOB, I WILL ASSASSINATE WHOEVER I AM TOLD. I WILL BECOME RICH.
THE KID WILL NEVER NEED TO WORK.
HIS WHIP TOUCHES HER THIGH, GENTLY, AS A SHY LOVER'S INQUIRY
I'LL. I'LL DO IT FOR TRUDI.
FOR TRUDI
BLACK-LASH?
OH, GOD OH, G G GOD.

ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS BEING BLACKLASH.
BECAUSE THAT WAS EASIER THAN BEING MARK SCARLOTTI, HUSBAND. . FATHER...
WE'RE ALL COWARDS.
KILL ME IF YOU WANT TO. I'VE HAD IT.
BLACK-LASH-
THE NAME'S MARK.
MARK..
I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU
OH, GOD, IT HURTS SO MUCH
I FEEL SO BAD.
I KNOW
I KNOW

LATER...
SHE IS EXHAUSTED.
SHE IS EXHILARATED.
HOPEFULLY, SHE WILL NEVER HEAR OF BLACK-LASH AGAIN.
TWO LOVERS GO BY.
THE WORLD IS NOT ALL BAD, SHE THINKS.
THERE IS HOPE.
LOVE, HUMANITY, PROGRESS.
IN THE ORESTEIA, AESCHYLUS DESCRIBES...
...HOW GOOD CAN PREVAIL.
SHE'S HAD A BAD NIGHT.
MAYBE THE DAY WILL BE BETTER.

KONRAD'S DANCE THEATER...
THE AIR BURNS IMPOSSIBLY...
THE CREATURE WITH THE YOUNG AMERICAN BACK-PACKER'S BODY, AND THE SOUL OF THE ARCHITECT, COALESCES...
MY HOST'S NAME WAS JUDY.
YOUR NAME USED TO BE GIMPY, DID IT NOT?
ARE YOU... A DEVIL?
DO I LOOK LIKE A DEVIL?
NO.
AND EVEN IF YOU DID...
...MY ANSWER WOULD STILL BE YES.
MAKE ME NORMAL.
I'LL DO AS YOU ASK.
TO BE CONTINUED...!

# SAY, BUB BAR

WRITE TO: SAY, BUB BAR c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10016

BOBBIE CHASE
BEDITOR
POLLY WATSON
PASSISTANT
BOB HARRAS
BOHBIE HF

Dear Bobbie,

When I first learned that Elektra was going to get her own ongoing monthly title I thought, "That's probably another good excuse for Marvel to have a gorgeous, slightly underdressed babe running around every month killing folks before breakfast." But knowing Mike Deodato Jr.'s fantastic run on the AVENGERS, I had to check ELEKTRA out. And I have to say, I was hooked from the first page I read.

I only knew Elektra from her appearances in WOLVERINE, so I didn't know much about her past. Therefore each page has been new and exciting. I absolutely love the way Peter Milligan tells the stories. Elektra is more than just a lot of legs and an incredible coiffure; she is a very intriguing person. She has the terrible burden of her past hanging over her head, but she keeps getting stronger every day. Issue #5 has been sort of a coming of age for her. For the first time she realizes that she is now strong and wise enough to make her own decisions, even though her father is no longer around to point her in the right direction. The way she defiantly cries out to the Architect in the pouring rain is chilling! So has each issue been since #1. I think it was a good idea to confront Elektra with her greatest adversary in the first issue. It was bound to happen anyway, so why not get it over with, right? The building suspense was great; all through the story I quivered with anticipation for the moment when Elektra would face Bullseye and therefore face her biggest fear. Then when she triumphantly hangs over him (ready to strike?), she sees her father's necklace and the mystery begins. The deadly Architect plots murder, but Elektra won't bow to his whim. What deep, dark secret lies hidden in her father's past?

With a story line like this, cameos such as the appearance of Logan and Dr. Strange, a good supporting cast consisting of great characters such as Konrad Weiss, King Lau, McKinley Stewart and Nina McCabe (who is becoming a best friend to Elektra, even though Elektra is older than she looks!) and of course the breathtaking art of Mike Deodato Jr., you can be certain I will be eagerly awaiting each new issue to hit the stand for a long time to come.

Make Mine Marvel!
Patrick A.M. de Raaff
Dopperstraat 82
3752 JH Bunschoten
The Netherlands

**Thanks, Patrick! Elektra has always been a very intriguing person, and we plan on keeping her that way! One of the most intriguing facets of Elektra's personality is the fact that although she may sometimes seem cold and unfeeling, she actually is a very emotional person who is motivated for the most part by her feelings rather than logic. It seemed only right that Elektra would scream in defiance the way she did.**

**By the way, we're glad that you liked the use of Bullseye! As for the secrets of Elektra's father, only time will tell, so keep on reading!**

Dear Bobbie,

ELEKTRA issue #5 was very impressive! I am really enjoying the new series. Peter, Mike, and the rest of the crew are doing a commendable job on this comic book. It is such a good book that I can hardly wait a month for each issue.

Peter Milligan is a longtime favorite of mine and I think this is some of his best work ever! Mike Deodato is another of my favorites, and each month I look forward to his art in ELEKTRA and THE INCREDIBLE HULK! Don't let go of this fine creative team.

The Architect is a very interesting character. There is obviously more to him than what has been shown to us so far. I think it would be good for Elektra to start dating again. It would make her character seem more realistic if she had a boyfriend.

I can't wait for the next issue to come out, but when it does, I'll try my best to tell you what I think about it. Thanks for taking the time to read this letter and please keep up the extra incredible work!

Rob Haney
1045 Knightsbridge Dr.
Machesny Park, IL 61115

**Thanks, Rob! We aim to impress, and we can hardly wait to get each new issue out on the stands! We're glad you're so happy with ELEKTRA's creative team, and don't worry, we don't plan on changing it anytime soon.**

**Of course there's more to the Architect than meets the eye! What fun would it be if we revealed everything there is to know about him right away?**

Dear Mr. Milligan,

What's with ELEKTRA? Have you ever read any of the comics featuring Elektra before you were given the responsibility of writing one? I would have to guess "no!" As far as I remember, she is a withdrawn, brooding, cold, hard killer, not some hap-hap-happy little den mother who moonlights as a dancer. She is not supposed to be written as a teeny-bopper, thong-wearing, up-with-today's-fashion, *Baywatch* babe trying to find her look. Please, give some credit and respect to the creative efforts of Frank Miller and do Elektra justice. She's a ninja assassin, not Pamela Anderson.

Name and address withheld

**Well, friend, we're glad to see that there are people out there who aren't afraid to voice their opinion, whether it's positive or negative! This is one medium where the old saying, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all" really isn't valid. We need to hear what everyone thinks; how else are we going to know what we can do (or at least try to do) to make the book as great as it can be?**

**At any rate, we're sorry you're so disappointed with the direction ELEKTRA is taking. You're absolutely right: Elektra has always been known as a withdrawn, brooding, cold, hard killer. But that was before she was killed. For Elektra, getting a second shot at life was like a slap in the face, forcing her to realize that life is too short to spend it brooding over the past and mourning for her dead father.**

**However, that's not to say that Elektra's gone soft! She's still as tough as she ever was, and as you can see, she can still kick butt as well as anybody!**

Dear Bobbie and Polly,

I'm a new reader to a few Marvel books, and ELEKTRA is one of them. I have to honestly say: It's wonderful! I started with issue #3, because I had a long trip ahead of me with nothing to read, and ELEKTRA was the only book I could find at the newsstand that seemed even remotely interesting. Boy, was I surprised! By the time I was through, I had regretted reading issue #3 without reading #s 1 and 2 before it. Needless to say, I'm now a fan!

I'd read about Elektra in one of the DAREDEVIL trade paperbacks, so I had a little background knowledge of her. She's just as impressive now as she was back then!

Anyway, I've got to be going. I just finished issue #5 (which, by the way, was as impressive as its predecessors) and am eagerly awaiting issue #6. Thanks for a great book!

Wensley E. Griedo
(Address withheld by request)

**Thanks a bunch, Wensley! It's always nice to know that we were able to satisfy one more customer! *And we mean that*, folks! Whether you've got *loads* of praise or *tons* of constructive criticism, we want to hear from you. So keep those letters coming in!**

NEXT ISSUE

THE ULTIMATE CURTAIN CALL FOR THE ARCHITECT!

NEXT PAGE: AN EXTRA SPECIAL OVER-THE-TOP INTERPRETATION OF ELEKTRA BY ARTIST KEVIN LAU!